

Subject: The Cedillo Weekly 01/09/15

From: "Gilbert Cedillo" <Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org>

Date: 01/09/2015 04:26 PM

To: "mistyli@aol.com" <mistyli@aol.com>



Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope 2015 will bring many blessings to you and your loved one's all year long! I was able to spend some quality time with my family on New Year's Day, reminding me the importance of family.

Keeping with the family message, I was up at 4:00 a.m. last Friday to greet and congratulate those standing in line at the Granada Hills DMV to apply for a driver license the first day Assembly Bill 60 was in effect.

What a marvelous and historic day it was to see 16 years of legislative work being realized as hundreds of families and individuals waited to get a driver license after 20 years. I was overjoyed with happiness as I witnessed so many with tears of joy in their eyes applying for a driver license.

The crowd was diverse, Latinos, Asian, Europeans and other nationalities waited together to apply for a driver license. Many of them shared with me their stories of struggle and fear because they were not able to drive with a license. That first day, approximately 17,200 applied for a driver license with 970 receiving a driver license on Friday.

I am excited to be back in Council and am ready to tackle some big

issues this year! Issues the Council will look at this year include voting on a comprehensive billboard program, funding our affordable housing trust fund, protecting wages through a strong wage theft ordinance, and continuing to clean up our streets through CD1 KEEP IT CLEAN campaign.

Sincerely,

- Gil

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AB 60 Driver License

According to the DMV, since Monday, the average percentage for passing the driving test thus far was at 36%, which tells me our work is not over. We must continue to educate applicants to understand the rules of the road so they can pass the test.

The passage and implementation of AB 60 is not our victory, our victory is when the millions of undocumented immigrants are tested, licensed and insured to make our streets safe throughout California.

ELA Planning Commission Motion

On Wednesday at City Council we invoked Charter Section 245 to assert jurisdiction over an East LA Area Planning Commission decision regarding a proposed car wash in CD-1.

The action was originally brought to my office's attention that there may have been some procedural errors – particularly with respect to the need to make the appropriate Legal Findings to justify the Commission's decision. At this time, we have no position “for” or “against” in this matter. However, out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of protecting the City's interests, we felt it was best to refer the item back to the Planning Commission.

Developing the Westlake Theater

Before the holiday break, the Council adopted an Option Agreement with the CRA/LA, A Designated Local Authority and successor to the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) for the Westlake Theater. The Westlake Theatre is a historic theater located in the Westlake section of Los Angeles, California, adjacent to MacArthur Park. The theater was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.

This agreement will allow the City to develop the Theater in a manner that supports the City's objectives for economic development, affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and other community benefits. The theater that is currently vacant and boarded up. This City Council action represents the first step in helping to bring PEACE to the area, and making the First District #1.

Honoring Maria Elena Durazo

Today in City Council we honored Maria Elena Durazo who is leaving our great City of Los Angeles to take on a new chapter in her life as Vice President for Immigration, Civil Rights and Diversity

at Unite Here. Since May 2006 Durazo has served as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. She also serves as an Executive Vice President of the governing Executive Council of the national AFL-CIO and as a Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee of the Democratic Party.

Councilmember Cedillo has known Maria Elena Durazo for over 30 years and has stood with her side by side in championing social justice causes for immigrants and working families. He wishes her the absolute best on her next journey as she continues to be a champion for immigrants and working families.

FIELD UPDATE

Nightingale Statue Unveiling

On Thursday we unveiled the beautifully restored statue of Florence Nightingale at Lincoln Park. We were joined by the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council, UCLA School of Nursing, Western Conservatory of Nursing History, Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health, USC Medical Center, California Hospital School of Nursing Alumni and the Lincoln Heights community.

The Florence Nightingale statue—also known as “Lady with the lamp”—was a prominent British nurse that improved and modernized nursing and healthcare practices to what it is today. The sculpture was commissioned during the 1930’s New Deal Era for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and funded by the Hospital Council of Southern California. The artwork was gifted to the City of Los Angeles, and with approval from the Los Angeles Municipal Art Commission in 1937, officially became accepted into the City’s Art Collection.

Team Cedillo led the effort to restore this statue in order to preserve our rich cultural heritage in our City's public art collection. I want to thank the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and Department of Cultural Affairs for their work and partnership with my office to ensure this public art was restored.

Lummis House

The Department of Recreation and Parks is currently negotiating with Occidental College as a future tenant of the Lummis House located in Sycamore Grove. The Historical Society will continue to operate the Lummis House for an agreed upon time frame of 90 days in order to have the facility open to the public. We understand the importance of keeping the grounds open is in the best interest of the public for all to enjoy the museum in Northeast Los Angeles.

Team Cedillo is committed to conserving our local historic treasures and will continue to work with community partners to preserve them.

BLQ Tree Trimming Project

The Byzantine Latino Quarter Business Improvement District (BLQ BID) just finished trimming and pruning 140 trees, mostly on Pico Boulevard. The work project included more than 100 over grown ficus trees. The project was funded by the BLQ BID, which is managed and operated by Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI). The BLQ BID has successfully been renewed for an additional five years in 2014.

Echo Park Homelessness Town Hall

Last night, our office participated in the Echo Park Improvement Associations monthly Town hall meeting. This month's meeting focused on the issue of homelessness in the Greater Echo Park neighborhoods that we also share with Council District 13.

Representatives from our office, Council District 13, the local neighborhood prosecutor, LAPD and other service providers were all in attendance to brief participants about the greater issue of homelessness in the City. Community members were educated in regards to human rights issues of the homeless, and what services are available to them. We were also able to give a report that the homeless encampments in Elysian Park were to be cleaned up this week.

AB 60 “Listos Para Manejar?” Workshop

Recently, my staff joined Divine Saviour Church in Cypress Park to provide an AB60-“*Listos Para Manejar?*” workshop to 30 attendees using a brochure our office created. The brochure is a resource for applicants who are seeking a California driver license under AB 60 that went into effect on January 1, 2015.

Educating our community to make sure every eligible driver applies for a license and passes the test is critical to public safety. We need every eligible driver tested, licensed, and insured to make our streets safer.

The Spanish brochure provides information about who to call, lays out the process, what types of documents are needed, and even provides sample DMV test questions for practice for those individuals seeking to obtain a driver license.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

City Attorney Town Hall

Classes at Lincoln Heights Jr. Arts Center

Patton Street Park and Community Garden

If you would like to be added to our newsletter or for article submission or calendar events please submit to Louis.reyes@lacity.org every Wednesday by 1:00 pm deadline to be published in the upcoming Friday edition. We reserve the right to copy edit or refuse submissions.

This message was sent to mistyli@aol.com by:

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